

SEBASTIAN VAN BAALEN

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www.sebastianvanbaalen.se

CURRENT POSITION

2023– Associate Senior Lecturer/Associate Professor, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

EDUCATION AND DEGREES

2024 Docent, Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.
2016–2021 Doctor of Philosophy, Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.
2013–2015 Master of Social Science, Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.
2010–2013 Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, Uppsala University, Sweden.
2012 Political Science, Stellenbosch University, South Africa.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021–2022 Researcher, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2015–2016 Research assistant, Department of Political Science, Stockholm University.
2015 Research assistant, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2015–2017 Co-founder and assistant editor-in-chief, MänskligSäkerhet.se.
2011–2015 Freelance journalist and consultant, Van Baalen Reporting.
2014 Research intern, Embassy of Sweden in South Africa.
2014 Visiting researcher, Centre for Civil Society, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Uribe, Andres & **Sebastian van Baalen** (2024) Governing the shadows: Territorial control and state making in civil war. *Comparative Political Studies* (online first). DOI: [10.1177/00104140241290200](https://doi.org/10.1177/00104140241290200).

van Baalen, Sebastian (2024) Keeping communal peace in the shadow of civil war: A natural experiment from Côte d'Ivoire. *World Development* 176: 106512. DOI: [10.1016/j.worlddev.2023.106512](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2023.106512).

van Baalen, Sebastian (2024) Civilian protest in civil war: Insights from Côte d'Ivoire. *American Political Science Review* 118(2): 815–830. DOI: [10.1017/S0003055423000564](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0003055423000564).

van Baalen, Sebastian (2024) Polls of fear? Electoral violence, incumbent strength, and voter turnout in Côte d'Ivoire. *Journal of Peace Research* 61(4): 595–611. DOI: [10.1177/00223433221147938](https://doi.org/10.1177/00223433221147938).

- van Baalen, Sebastian** & Abel Gbala (2023) Patterns of electoral violence during Côte d'Ivoire's third-term crisis. *African Affairs* 122(488): 447–460. DOI: [10.1093/afraf/adado20](https://doi.org/10.1093/afraf/adado20).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** & Niels Terpstra (2023) Behind enemy lines: State-insurgent cooperation on rebel governance in Côte d'Ivoire and Sri Lanka. *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 34(1): 221–246. DOI: [10.1080/09592318.2022.2104297](https://doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2022.2104297).
- Bara, Corinne, Annekatrin Deglow & **Sebastian van Baalen** (2021) Civil war recurrence and postwar violence: Towards an integrated research agenda. *European Journal of International Relations* 37(3): 913–935. DOI: [10.1177/13540661211006443](https://doi.org/10.1177/13540661211006443).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** (2021) Local elites, civil resistance, and the responsiveness of rebel governance in Côte d'Ivoire. *Journal of Peace Research* 58(5): 930–944. DOI: [10.1177/0022343320965675](https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343320965675).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** & Kristine Höglund (2019) “So, the killings continued”: Wartime mobilization and post-war violence in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *Terrorism & Political Violence* 31(6): 1168–1186. DOI: [10.1080/09546553.2017.1218126](https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2017.1218126).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** (2018) “Google wants to know your location”: The ethical challenges of fieldwork in the digital age. *Research Ethics* 14(4): 1–17. DOI: [10.1177/1747016117750312](https://doi.org/10.1177/1747016117750312).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** & Malin Mobjörk (2018) Climate change and violent conflict in East Africa: Integrating qualitative and quantitative research to probe the mechanisms. *International Studies Review* 20(4): 547–575. DOI: [10.1093/isr/vixo43](https://doi.org/10.1093/isr/vixo43).

DISSERTATION

- van Baalen, Sebastian** (2020) *Guns and governance: Local elites and rebel governance in Côte d'Ivoire*. PhD dissertation. Uppsala: Uppsala University.

REPORTS

- Sebastian van Baalen** (2022) [How civilians can make rebels more responsive](#). Policy Note. Gothenburg: The Program on Governance and Local Development at the University of Gothenburg, 2 May.
- Bjarnesen, Jesper & **Sebastian van Baalen** (2021) [Democratic backsliding in Côte d'Ivoire: Legislative elections tighten Ouattara's grip on power](#). NAI Policy Notes 2021:1. Uppsala: The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI).
- Bjarnesen, Jesper & **Sebastian van Baalen** (2020) [Ouattara's third-term bid raises old fears: Risk of violence in Côte d'Ivoire's upcoming presidential elections](#). NAI Policy Notes 2020:5. Uppsala: The Nordic Africa Institute (NAI).
- Mobjörk, Malin, Maria-Therese Gustafsson, Hannes Sonnsjö, **Sebastian van Baalen**, Lisa Dellmuth & Niklas Bremberg (2016). [Climate-related security risks: Towards an integrated approach](#). Report. Stockholm: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** & Malin Mobjörk (2016) [Climate change and violent conflict in East Africa: Implications for policy](#). Policy brief. Stockholm: Stockholm University, Swedish Institute for Foreign Affairs (UI) & Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** & Malin Mobjörk (2016) [A coming anarchy? Pathways from climate change to violent conflict in East Africa](#). Report. Stockholm: Stockholm University.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- van Baalen, Sebastian** (2023) Civilian protest and competitive state-building in rebel-held Côte d'Ivoire. In: Sam Kniknie & Karen Büscher (eds) *Rebellious Riots: Entangled Geographies of Contention in Africa*, pp. 94–127. DOI: [10.1163/9789004542402_005](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004542402_005).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** (2020) The responsiveness of rebel governance in Man, Côte d'Ivoire. *Program on Governance and Local Development Working Paper* 34. DOI: [10.2139/ssrn.3732277](https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3732277).
- van Baalen, Sebastian** (2014) The microdynamics of conflict escalation: The case of ANC-IFP fighting in South Africa in 1990. *Pax et Bellum Journal* 1(1): 14–20.

WORK IN PROGRESS (FULL-LENGTH DRAFTS)

- van Baalen, Sebastian** (R&R at *Comparative Political Studies*) Ballots, boycotts, and bloodshed: Explaining violence during election boycotts.
- van Baalen, Sebastian** & Nguyen Ha (full-length draft) Domains of dominance: Political territorial control and conflict-related violence in postwar Abidjan.
- Abbs, Luke, Marina G Petrova & **Sebastian van Baalen** (full-length draft) In harm's way: Civilian nonviolent action and the intensity of civil war.
- van Baalen, Sebastian** & Kristine Höglund (full-length draft) Trials and triangulations: Aggregation problems in event data on political violence.
- van Baalen, Sebastian** & Kristine Höglund (full-length draft) Agents of electoral anarchy: Introducing the MAVERICK dataset.
- van Baalen, Sebastian**, Jessica Moody & Jesper Bjarnesen (full-length book chapter) Explaining Côte d'Ivoire's failed anti-third term campaign.

OP-EDS AND BLOG POSTS

- [Why communal conflict should be viewed as a wartime phenomenon](#). *The Loop – ECPR's Political Science Blog*. 14 May 2024 (with Claudia Wiehler).
- [Local elections signal the death of coalition politics in Côte d'Ivoire](#). *Democracy in Africa*. 27 September 2023.
- Därför riskerar kriget i Ukraina att bli långdraget [Why the war in Ukraine will be long]. *Tranås Posten*, 22 February 2023.
- Hur slutar ett krig? [How does war end?]. *Tranås Posten*, 18 April 2022.
- [Can nonviolent civil resistance stop Putin?](#) *Political Violence @ a Glance*. 11 March 2022 (with Isak Svensson).
- [Icke våldsmotståndet som utmanar Putin](#) [The nonviolent resistance challenging Putin]. *Utrikesmagasinet*, 9 March 2022 (with Isak Svensson).
- Putins invasion är ett hot mot den rådande världsordningen [Putin's invasion is a threat to the current global order]. *Tranås Posten*, 2 March 2022.

[Elfenbenskusten: Risk för våld vid ifrågasatt val](#) [Côte d'Ivoire: Risk of violence following contested election]. *Global Bar Magazine*, 28 October 2020 (with Jesper Bjarnesen).

[The making of a dinosaur? Côte d'Ivoire's 2020 elections](#). *Democracy in Africa*. 22 October 2020 (with Jesper Bjarnesen).

[Will Côte d'Ivoire's presidential election turn violent?](#) *Political Violence @ a Glance*. 15 October 2020 (with Jesper Bjarnesen).

[The nuts and bolts of a climate-conflict link in East Africa](#). *New Security Beat*. 19 March 2018 (with Malin Mobjörk).

[Politisk maktkamp hotar freden i Elfenbenskusten](#) [Political power struggle threatens Côte d'Ivoire's peace]. *Utrikesmagasinet*. 15 December 2017.

[Jasaffären i Botswana strider mot Sveriges mål](#) [The Jas-deal with Botswana violates Sweden's goals]. *Svenska Dagbladet*. 24 March 2017 (with Johan Brosché and Kristine Höglund).

[Underskatta inte IS administrativa makt](#) [Do not underestimate the Islamic State's administrative power]. *Mänsklig Säkerhet*. 25 October 2016.

[Sydafrikas moraliska förfall](#) [South Africa's moral decay]. *Mänsklig Säkerhet*. 2 November 2015.

[Fredsarbete måste se till relationen mellan det lokala och nationella](#) [Peacebuilding must consider the relationship between the local and national]. *Mänsklig Säkerhet*. 16 June 2015.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

2020	Cedric Smith Prize. Awarded by the Conflict Research Society for the best article in peace and conflict research by a PhD student.
2019	Boulding Award, runner-up. Awarded by the International Studies Association (ISA) for the best graduate paper in Peace Studies presented at the ISA convention in Toronto, Canada.
2015	Mats Hammarström Award. Awarded by the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, for the best MA thesis.

INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS

2024	Presentation on replicability in political violence event data. Hertie School, Centre for International Security, Berlin, 2 May.
2023	Presentation on the causes of electoral violence during boycotts. Department of Political Science, Amsterdam University, Amsterdam. 18 September.
2023	Presentation on the causes of communal peace in civil war. Center for Crisis Early Warning (CCEW), München. 7 June.
2022	Presentation on the dark side of nonviolent action in civil war. Overseas Development Institute's roundtable discussion on civilian-armed group relations. 21 June.
2021	Presentation on digital security in field research in civil war research. University of Bologna's Online Roundtable on Digital Security and Data Protection. 12 May.
2021	Presentation on the causes of rebel responsiveness in civil war. Institut de Recherche Stratégique de l'Ecole Militaire (IRSEM), Paris. 28 April.

- 2017 Presentation on global trends in armed conflict, 1989–2017. Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix (CERAP) in Abidjan. 10 November.

FIELD RESEARCH

- 2024 Côte d'Ivoire. Conducted 23 semi-structured interviews over the course of three weeks of field research on electoral violence in Adzopé and Dabou.
- 2022 Côte d'Ivoire. Conducted 37 semi-structured interviews and mapping workshops over the course of five weeks of field research on electoral violence.
- 2017–2020 Côte d'Ivoire. Conducted more than 90 semi-structured interviews and extensive archival research over the course of eight months of field research on rebel governance.
- 2014 South Africa. Conducted more than 30 semi-structured interviews and archival research over the course of three months of field research on postwar violence.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

[Bij de Ivorianen sloeg de woede tijdens de Afrika Cup om in vreugde](#) [For the Ivorians, anger turned into rejoice], *NRC Handelsblad*, 9 February 2024, commenting on the economic consequences of the Africa Cup of Nations in Côte d'Ivoire.

[I Elfenbenskysten husker man stadig, hvordan fodbold bragte fred: Nu er hele Afrika inviteret til fest i rebellernes gamle højborg](#) [In Côte d'Ivoire people still remember how football brought peace: Now all of Africa is invited to the rebels' old stronghold], *Globalnyt*, 27 January 2024, commenting on the role of football during the Ivorian civil war and peace process.

[Fields of dreams: The politics and power of the Africa Cup of Nations](#), *The Nordic Africa Podcast*, 26 January 2024, commenting on the role of football during the Ivorian civil war and the economic impact of AFCON.

[CS-Pleite trübt Thiams Traum vom Staatsoräsidium](#) [CS bankruptcy clouds Thiam's presidential dream], *Blick*, 30 December 2023, commenting on the new opposition leader Tidjane Thiam's chances to challenge President Ouattara in Côte d'Ivoire's 2025 presidential election.

[Ex-Credit Suisse chief Tidjane Thiam takes first step in campaign to lead Ivory Coast](#), *Financial Times*, 15 December 2023, commenting on the opposition's chances to challenge President Ouattara in Côte d'Ivoire's 2025 presidential election.

[Är tredje världskriget snart här?](#) [Is World War III here soon?], *A-kursen Podcast*, 13 November 2023, discussing central concepts and trends in peace and conflict research. Long version available [here](#).

[Academics in uproar after Sweden cancels research funding](#), *The Local*, 28 June 2023, discussing cuts to development research funding.

[Sagan om ringen](#) – I tre olika format [Lord of the Rings – In three different formats], *Vi hör i Underlandet Podcast*, 16 February 2023, discussing peace and war in the Lord of the Rings universe.

[Civilt motstånd kan spela en avgörande roll för kriget](#) [Civil resistance can be decisive for the war], *Upsala Nya Tidning*, 3 April 2022, discussing the role of nonviolent civil resistance in the Ukraine war.

[Star Wars – På riktigt](#) [Star Wars – For real], *Vi hörs i Underlandet Podcast*, 4 May 2022, discussing conflict dynamics in the Star Wars universe.

DATA PROJECTS

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| Ongoing | <i>Masters and Agents of Election-Related Violence in Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya (MAVERICK) Dataset</i> . A geo-referenced event dataset on the actors of electoral violence in Côte d'Ivoire and Kenya (1992–2022). The dataset currently contains information on 2,207 electoral violence incidents in both countries. |
| 2023 | <i>Electoral Violence in Côte d'Ivoire Dataset</i> . A geo-referenced event dataset on various forms of electoral violence in Côte d'Ivoire (2020–2021). The dataset contains information on 320 electoral violence incidents intended to influence the process or outcome of the 2020 presidential election or the 2021 legislative election. DOI: 10.1177/00223433221147938 . |
| 2023 | <i>Wartime Civilian Protest in Côte d'Ivoire Dataset</i> . A geo-referenced event dataset on conflict-related nonviolent civilian protest in Côte d'Ivoire (2002–2011). The dataset contains information on 412 events in which civilians made demands on armed actors, including demonstrations, strikes, sit-ins, and protest marches. DOI: 10.7910/DVN/MPTSQR . |

RESEARCH GRANTS

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| 2021 | Swedish Research Council. <i>Crossing the Rubicon: The dynamics of restraint in civil war</i> . Co-applicant. 4.5 million SEK. Written together with project leader Johan Brosché and co-applicant Corinne Bara. |
| 2020 | Swedish Research Council. <i>Alliances of anarchy: Actor constellations and patterns of electoral violence</i> . Co-applicant. 5.2 million SEK. Written together with project leader Kristine Höglund and co-applicant Espen Geelmuyden Rød. |
| 2019 | The Program on Governance and Local Development at Gothenburg University. <i>Guns and governance: Local elites and rebel governance in Côte d'Ivoire</i> . Main applicant. 33,000 SEK. |

SCHOLARSHIPS

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| 2017–2019 | Anna-Maria Lundin Travel Grant. Smålands Nation, Uppsala University, for field research in Côte d'Ivoire. Eight separate scholarships totalling 278,904 SEK. |
| 2017 | Forskraft Foundation, Theodor Adelswårds minne, for field research in Côte d'Ivoire. 80,000 SEK. |
| 2015 | Bielke's Scholarship. Faculty of Social Sciences, Uppsala University, for "outstanding academic achievements in political science." Awarded both in 2014 and 2015. |

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

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| 2016– | Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. 2,497 teaching hours, including 210 supervision hours and circa 400 face-to-face teaching hours (as of 26 April 2024). Supervised 13 MA theses and 7 BA theses. Course convener: Security Scenario Analysis (BA level), Peace and Conflict Studies (2019/2020, 2018/2019); Causes of War (MA level), Peace and Conflict Studies (2021, 2022); Conflict Resolution (BA |
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level), Peace and Conflict Studies (2022); International Conflict Resolution (MA level), Peace and Conflict Studies (2023/2024).

PHD SUPERVISION

2024– Assistant supervisor (Imrana Buba), Department of Political Science, Oslo University.
2022– Assistant supervisor (Hüsne Akgöl), Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

GUEST LECTURER

2023 Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management, Radboud University.
2022 Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix, Abidjan.
2022 Centre for International Conflict Analysis and Management, Radboud University.
2017 Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix, Abidjan.

PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

2023 Supervising PhD Students, Uppsala University (3 weeks).
2022 Teaching Academic Writing (workshop), Uppsala University.
2019 Academic Teacher Training Course, Uppsala University (5 weeks).
2015 Interactive Lecturing Techniques for Sustainable Development, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).

PUBLIC OUTREACH & CONSULTING

2024 Invited expert. Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefing on security politics in Côte d'Ivoire, Stockholm, 4 April.
2024 Invited expert. Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs briefing on politics in West Africa, Uppsala. 7 March.
2023 Invited expert. Center for Crisis Early Warning (CCEW) conflict risk mapping for Côte d'Ivoire, online. 13 October.
2023 Invited moderator. Pax et Bellum's panel discussion on peacekeeping. 20 February.
2022 Invited moderator. Pax et Bellum's panel discussion on the Ukraine war. 6 May.
2022 Invited speaker. Holavedsgymnasiet's theme day on the Ukraine war. 19 April.
2021 Invited panellist. Uppsala Association of International Affairs. 10 December.
2021 Expert reviewer. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri) Insight series.
2021 Invited speaker. Tekniska muséet's exhibition Hyper Human. 5 November.
2021 Invited expert. The Nordic Africa Institute's ambassador briefing on West Africa. 7 October.
2020 Invited speaker. Folke Bernadotte Academy's discussion on digital security. 20 November.
2020 Invited expert. The Nordic Africa Institute's policy dialogue on the 2020 Ivorian presidential elections. 22 October.
2019 Invited speaker. The Classroom Experience's public lectures on the ethical challenges of fieldwork in the digital age. 28 January.
2016 Consultant. Swedish Church Aid. Produced the report *Gränslös: Svenska kyrkans internationella arbete med migrations- och flyktingfrågor* [Borderless: Swedish Church Aid's international engagements with migration refugee issues] (with Erik Schrammel).

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

DEPARTMENTAL DUTIES

2024	PhD Admission Committee, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2024–	Grading working group, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2023–	Representative for the Department Board of the Teacher/Researcher Corporation, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2023–	AI and teaching working group, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2021–	Ethics Committee for Student Work, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2023	International Training Director for the International Training on Dialogue and Mediation, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2022–2023	Second deputy representative for the Department Board of the Teacher/Researcher Corporation, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2017–2018	Equality officer, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2016–2017	PhD representative, Equality Committee, Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.

REFeree ASSIGNMENTS (2019–)

Contributed 40 reviews (35 verified on [Web of Science](#)), including for: *American Political Science Review*, *World Development*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Conflict Management & Peace Science*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Civil Wars*, and *Small Wars & Insurgencies*.

OTHER DUTIES

2024–	Chair of the Cedric Smith Prize and Council member for the Conflict Research Society.
2023–2024	Writing coach for PhD candidate Maureen Fubara, University of Amsterdam.
2022	Jury member for the Cedric Smith Prize for the Conflict Research Society.
2019–2021	Country expert coder on Côte d'Ivoire for the Violence Early-Warning System (ViEWS) project at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University.
2021, 2023	Organiser of the biannual Development Research Seminar, Uppsala University.

MEMBERSHIPS

Conflict Research Society (CRS), International Studies Association (ISA), Rebel Governance Network (RGN).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024	Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference. Edinburgh, UK, 5–6 September.
2023	Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference. London, UK, 12–13 September.
2023	Nonviolence and conflict transformation workshop. Leeds, UK, 15 April.

2023	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. Montréal, Canada, 15–18 March.
2022	Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference. Belfast, Northern Ireland, 7–9 September.
2022	Fifth Annual GLD Conference. Brastad, Sweden, 23–25 May.
2022	Swiss Congress of Political Science. Virtual, 3–4 February.
2021	Amsterdam University Workshop on Elections and Violence. Virtual, 25–27 October.
2021	Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference. Virtual, 8–10 September.
2021	Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies (AEGIS) Book Workshop. Virtual, 29 April.
2021	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. Virtual, 5–9 April.
2019	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. Toronto, Canada, 27–30 March.
2019	Conflict Research Society (CRS) Annual Conference. Brighton, UK, 8–10 September.
2018	Development Research Conference (DevRes). Gothenburg, Sweden, 22–23 August.
2018	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. San Francisco, USA, 4–7 April.
2016	German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) International Workshop. Pretoria, South Africa, 28–29 July.

SOFTWARE SKILLS

In addition to the standard software: Stata, R, LaTeX, Quantum GIS, ATLAS.ti.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Native	Swedish, Dutch
Fluent	English
Basic	French

OTHER SKILLS & QUALIFICATIONS

Security Training for Journalists in Disaster and Conflict Areas (December 2015) Fojo Media Institute, Kalmar, Sweden.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2016	Leave of absence, 2 months, 20% (1 April–31 May 2016).
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REFERENCES

Professor Kristine Höglund

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